

NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN GENERAL

MARKER APPLICATIONS – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER/PATRIOT/WIFE/DAUGHTER/REAL DAUGHTER

- 1) Documentation that establishes proof of a soldier/patriot's service during the Revolutionary War and his or her dates and places of birth and death, as well as residence during the war must be submitted with an application to place a marker at his/her gravesite. This applies to every marker application submitted:
 - a) Regardless of whether or not the soldier/patriot has already been established by the DAR.
 - b) Regardless of when a DAR member application or supplemental application was approved for the same soldier/patriot for whom the marker application is being submitted.
- 2) Examples of the types of documentation that can be submitted as evidence of Revolutionary War service and/or vital information regarding the individual whom you and/or chapter and/or state society are seeking to honor include the following: military service records such as copies of pension applications (or references to a pension or a pension number), muster rolls; *Papers of the Continental Congress*; contemporary letters from the person who performed the service; civil records; signatory claims; vital records such as birth, baptismal, marriage, and death records; wills; contemporary obituaries; court records; copies of diaries; family Bibles; deeds; and county histories. As stated in the DAR Genealogy Guidelines, Part 2, RGG-4001, page 93), "The best evidence possible should be used to prove Revolutionary War service." The same applies to evidence of an individual's dates and places of birth and death and residence during the Revolutionary War. Please be sure that all copies of documentation are clearly legible.
- 3) The processing of an application to mark a grave takes six months or more from the time the application is deemed complete and ready for verification. If an application is received lacking any of the required components, the process will take longer, since the missing information will be requested of the applicant before the file can be deemed ready for verification.
- 4) Please note when submitting an application to mark the grave of the spouse or daughter of a Revolutionary soldier/patriot, documentation of that person's relationship to the soldier/patriot needs to be submitted along with **all** the documentation regularly requested regarding the Revolutionary War soldier/patriot concerned. Evidence of the spouse or daughter's dates and places of birth and death is also required.
- 5) The same requirements as above, in item #4 apply to an application to mark the grave of a Real Daughter. In addition, proof of her DAR membership, such as national number and chapter of membership, is required.
- 6) A DAR member does not have to be a descendant of a soldier/patriot in order to apply for permission to mark that soldier/patriot's grave. Proof of lineage should **not** be submitted with an application to mark the grave of a soldier/patriot.
- 7) Evidence of the existence of the grave of the individual to be honored must be submitted with the application. This proof can be in the form of a photograph of the grave or a cemetery plot list, map or inventory. Should a photograph be submitted, make certain that it is legible and that its location is noted.
- 8) A letter of permission to place a marker needs to be procured from the owners/authorities of the cemetery in which the individual to be honored is buried. This letter needs to be signed and dated by the appropriate authority and must include the name of the chapter or state society and the name of the individual to be honored.
- 9) Applications will be accepted to mark the graves of soldiers, patriots, and only the following relatives of soldiers or patriots— spouse, daughter, or Real Daughter of a soldier or patriot.
- 10) Please note that when applying for an extension of permission to mark the grave of an individual, your request is placed at the end of the queue of all marker applications. Both applications to place markers and requests for extensions of permission to place already approved markers are verified in the order in which they are received, with few exceptions.

HISTORICAL/COMMEMORATIVE MARKERS APPLICATIONS
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- 1) Every DAR historical/commemorative marker requires a title at the beginning of the text. At the end of the text there must be a “marker placed by statement” (which names the chapter or state society placing the marker) and the date of the placement.
- 2) All letters of verification must be written by non-DAR historical experts. Each letter of verification needs to explain that the writer is well acquainted with the subject matter in the marker text and is in a position to verify that the textual statements are accurate. Each letter must include the exact text of the marker and a clear statement that the writer of the letters can attest to the historical accuracy of the statements in the marker text.
- 3) The best evidence available should be used to prove each statement that appears in the wording of the marker. Documentation is to be drawn whenever possible from primary source materials. If primary documentation is not available, scholarly secondary (footnoted) sources may be accepted. Examples of acceptable primary documentation are journals/diaries, family Bibles, contemporary letters, newspapers, church records, land grants, account books, wills, town vital records, and court records. (In this context, contemporary means that the source is from the time period appropriate to the event, person or place on which the marker text focuses.) Address questions to the Office of the Historian General regarding whether or not the documentation you intend to submit is permissible.
- 4) Absolute terms, such as “oldest,” “first,” “always,” “only,” etc., should not be used in marker texts. Statements that include such definite words are exceedingly difficult to prove.
- 5) A historical spot or event that has a negative connotation attached to it, or that could be considered offensive to any specific race or group of people is an inappropriate topic for a DAR marker. For example, the DAR would not wish to recognize a place where an Indian massacre occurred.
- 6) The application form HG-7002 states that a marker request can take six months to process. Please note that this may be the minimum amount of time required to process an application. If problems occur with the proposed wording or if further documentation is required, the process will take longer. The six-month period begins only when all items needed to analyze the request have been received. Any telephone calls or correspondence concerning a proposed marker that is received prior to the submission of the complete, official application packet will be considered as a “pre-application” and will not be included in the six-month estimate.
- 7) The DAR has no official listing or registry for historical sites. There is no DAR equivalent to the National Register of Historic Places. The DAR does not grant “historical status.”

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR ALL MARKER APPLICATIONS

- 1) Submitting an application to the Office of the Historian General does not mean that a marker will automatically be approved. Do not proceed with plans for a marker’s placement until an official letter of permission is received from the Historian General.
- 2) When preparing a marker application, obtain estimates of what the planned marker and text will cost. (*Note: If the DAR Insignia is to be included on the marker, remember that the insignia can be procured only from one of the firms authorized by the NSDAR to reproduce the insignia.*) Determining at an early stage the cost of a marker is important, because it enables a marker applicant to ascertain if a marker is within an affordable price range before applying for the Historian General’s permission to place the marker. If a marker is too expensive, the text can often be shortened.
- 3) Please return a completed form to report the installation and dedication of any Revolutionary War or historical/commemorative marker that is placed by your chapter or state. This information is needed for the files maintained by the Office of the Historian General. Materials associated with a marker’s dedication ceremony, such as a program, newspaper articles, photographs of the marker, and so on, should be sent to the Office of the Historian General.
- 4) A DAR marker may not repeat information that appears on any other existing marker in the location where the DAR marker will be placed. If there are already other markers, signs or plaques in the vicinity where the proposed DAR marker is to be placed, the application for the DAR marker must include either photographs or transcriptions of the texts of those markers.